



GROWING PAINS—Economic ups and downs on the farm added up to bad news for farmers last year. After a good return in 1958, farmers' income dropped sharply during 1959. At the same time, prices they had to pay out continued their steady pull-away. Farmers showed another drop in gross income in Union County during the year. It was the 10th straight year that farm income has dropped in this county.

Large Belt Of Great Plains Acreage Damaged By Erosion

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Agriculture Department said today about 200,000 acres of land in the Great Plains states were damaged this season by wind erosion.

Reports from 263 counties covering about 240 million acres in the 10 Great Plains states indicated that an additional 12,600,000 acres were in condition to blow during this winter and next spring.

Nearly all the wind damage this season occurred in November. 200,000 acres damaged through Dec. 1 compared with about 400,000 acres on the same date in 1958 and 100,000 acres in 1957.

The damaged areas were concentrated in Nebraska, Kansas, and North Dakota. These three states accounted for about 80 per cent of the total damaged acres in the plains states.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Agriculture Department will hold a public hearing Jan. 26 at Springfield, Ill., on a proposal to quarantine Illinois against the Soybean cyst nematode.

The hearing also will air plans to regulate a localized infestation of the nematode in Pulaski County.

The soybean nematode was discovered on a single farm near Mounds in Pulaski County during September. Samples have been taken from some 1,600 farms comprising nearly 93,000 acres in 82 Illinois counties without finding additional infestations.

Market Quotations

By United Press International

PORTLAND DAIRY

PORTLAND (UPI)—Dairy market:

Eggs—To retailers: Grade AA extra large, 49-52c; AA large, 46-48c; A large, 44-46c; AA medium 41-43c; AA small, 32-37c; cartons 1-3c additional.

Butter — To retailers: AA and grade A prints, 70c lb.; carton, 1c higher; prints, 68c.

Cheese (medium cured) — To retailers: A grade cheddar single daisies, 44-51c; processed American cheese, 5-lb. loaf, 42-44c.

PORTLAND LIVESTOCK

PORTLAND (UPI)—(USDA) — Weekly livestock:

Cattle 1125; average choice 1132 lb. fed steers 27.50; low choice under 1000 lb. 27; good 24-26.25; good-choice fed heifers 24; utility cows 15-17; canner - cutters 11.50-13.50; cutter-utility bulls 16-19.50.

Calves 150; vealers strong to 1.00 higher; some good - choice vealers 28 - 33, couple head 34. General vealers and calves 22-27; good-choice stock calves 23-26.

Hogs 1025; butchers mostly 1.00 higher; 1 and 2 at midweek 14.75-15, early sales Monday 15.25-15.50.

NEW YORK STOCKS

NEW YORK (UPI)—Industrial shares broke into new high ground in their average today on moderately active turnover.

The section went over the top at the opening as traders focused their attention on the high quality issues included in the averages.

The industrial shares closed just 1.13 points away from the peak Wednesday. The previous top was 678.19 set Aug. 3, but by the first hour today the average stood at 679.83, a difference of 1.75 points.

However, the only high that counts is the one that comes at the close.

Among the components of the average to score were U.S. Steel up more than 1, DuPont, International Paper, Jersey Standard and Bethlehem Steel all up fractions, and General Electric up nearly 1 1/2.

Motors gained on balance with Ford up more than 1, and General Motors, Chrysler and American Motors all up around a half or more. Steels were strong, as were electronics, oils, and the electrical equipment.

Market Outlook Is Dim

CORVALLIS (UPI)—The 1960 farm market outlook is none too bright, according to specialists at Oregon State College.

Marion D. Thomas, extension agricultural economist, said prospects for abundant food supplies have led Department of Agriculture analysts to forecast 1960 national net farm income at least 3 per cent below the 1959 level.

In articles in the Oregon Farm and Market Outlook, a publication of Oregon State College, farm specialists in poultry, dairy, livestock and cropland fields see a lower income in the coming year.

Thomas said that Oregon agriculture is likely to continue short on rewards largely because food is being produced in such great abundance. Consumers, he said, now prefer to spend their extra dollars on comforts and conveniences, including processed foods.

Changes Suggested

He added however, that farmers who make the right change at the right time, will be rewarded. He said one of these changes is to adjust production to changes in market prospects and marketing practices. Another method is to adopt cost-cutting, income boosting tools and practices growing out of new technology.

Oregon's cattle, hog and lamb prices will average moderately lower in 1960, according to S. C. Marks, OSC extension economist. He said the drop will be due to a further increase in the national supply of pork and beef.

Marks said the cattle industry is entering a period that calls for caution. He added, however, that a sharp drop in cattle prices is not expected. Further declines beyond 1960 are likely, but prices need not become as distressing as in the 1950's if the industry avoids high cost expansion, he said.

Dairy Outlook

Oscar Haag, dairy marketing specialist, added the dairy market to the danger zone. Profit-wise, 1960 looms as none too promising, he said.

Prices paid by dairymen in recent months have averaged the highest ever for a corresponding period, but indications are that mixed feed and hay situations will add further worries to the dairyman's cost problem, at least during the first half of the coming year.

A brighter picture is seen for the poultry market in some aspects, according to specialist C. M. Fischer. Farm prices for eggs, broilers and turkeys in 1959 reached the lowest levels since the early 1940's, he said.

No sharp cutbacks in the industry are seen for 1960 except possibly for broilers during part of the year. With total quantity declining very little and increase moderate, the major source of downward price pressure will be slight, he said.

Beef Council Will Collect For Promotion

Voluntary state beef promotion program of the Oregon Beef Council will be launched in January, the council has announced.

Brand inspectors of the State Department of Agriculture, auction yards, terminal markets and meat packers throughout the state will be collecting for the program at the rate of 10 cents per head on all cattle and calves sold.

These collections for beef promotions will be made either at the point of origin or at the market place as authorized by the seller on either the state brand inspection certificate or the livestock transportation certificate.

The program was enacted by the 1959 Oregon Legislature and funds collected will be used to conduct a program of publicity, consumer education, research and trade relations for beef.

The beef cattle industry accounts for 20 per cent of Oregon's farm income with annual sales of \$60,000,000.

The council will work closely with existing state and national organizations in an effort to increase beef consumption. Programs are presently conducted along this line by the Oregon Cow Belles, National Beef Council and the National Livestock and Meat Board. The council will give financial support to research programs of the latter organization.

M. H. Tippet, Enterprise, and Jack Wilson, North Powder, are members of the council which was appointed earlier in the year by Gov. Mark O. Hatfield.

- STORM DOORS
 - STORM WINDOWS
- In Aluminum and Wood
Miller's Cabinet Shop
Greenwald and Johnson

Valley Farm-Ranch-Home

Bill Bebout, Editor



CHECK EXPERIMENT RESULTS

Ted Sidor, left, Union County Extension agent, and Vance Pumphrey, agronomist at the Eastern Oregon Experiment Station, check production figures on experiment currently being conducted by Pumphrey. Results of the experiment which will continue for at least two more years show effects of nitrogen fertilizer application time on wheat production. (Observer Photo)

Wheat Fertilizer Application Time Shows Production Effect

By TED SIDOR

Union County Agent

UNION (Special)—Effect of nitrogen fertilizer application time on wheat production is currently being studied by Vance Pumphrey, agronomist at the Eastern Oregon Experiment Station here.

Pumphrey has found that early spring and mid-spring applications result in considerable differences in yield, straw weight and straw height as compared to nitrogen fertilizer application in the fall.

Basing his results on one year's trials, Pumphrey said that the results are preliminary and at least two more years of continued study must be maintained before results can be considered conclusive.

Results for his one year trial show an increase on one central Grande Ronde Valley farm, using 30 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

Thirty bushels per acre were harvested when fertilizer was applied in the fall; 45 bushels were

harvested when the 30 pounds of nitrogen were applied in April; and 39 bushels were harvested in mid-spring.

On a farm located near the north end of Sand Ridge, 64 bushels per acre were harvested when 30 pounds of nitrogen were applied in the fall; 70 bushels were harvested when the same amount of nitrogen was applied in early spring; and 76 bushels were harvested when the nitrogen was applied in mid-spring.

In this field, straw production and lodging were considerably less where the nitrogen was applied in mid-spring.

Pumphrey points out that in the mid-spring application had a three point advantage over other times of application—greater yield, less straw, and less lodging.

A close correlation was found between bushels per acre produced and straw production per acre with variations found in time of nitrogen application and native fertility of the soil.

An average of three high yielding tests on the 30 pound nitrogen rate showed that fall application resulted in a yield of 55.1 bushels per acre and 9,000 pounds of straw or 163 pounds of straw per bushel produced.

The same rate of nitrogen applied in early spring gave production of 59 bushels per acre with 9,200 pounds of straw or 157 pounds of straw per bushel of wheat produced.

Mid-spring application of fertilizer gave 64 bushels per acre, 8,470 pounds of straw or 132 pounds of straw per bushel of wheat produced.

Other experiments on less productive sites showed an early application of 30 pounds of nitrogen producing 35 bushels of wheat per acre and 2600 pounds of straw or 76 pounds of straw for every bushel of wheat produced.

An increase in wheat from nitrogen can be expected in most fields, Pumphrey summarized. Fields which are most likely not to need nitrogen are those with deep, dark colored soil which has been rotated, have been in alfalfa or legume pastures.

Trials on spring oats and barley showed that production yields were increased by the applications of nitrogen and phosphorus.

Yield increase in most cases, however, did not warrant the application of commercial fertilizer.

Some field deficiencies were noted in some fields tested. As the weather warmed and the sulfate became available the deficiency disappeared.

Additional fertilizer trials on

Agricultural Use Of Chemicals Due For Special Study

The growing concern with use of chemicals in agriculture will come before a study committee which will sift out and evaluate present information in this field.

Frank McKennon, state director of agriculture, told the state board of agriculture that he and Dean F. E. Price of Oregon State College have held preliminary discussions toward calling together a selected committee early in the new year.

Representatives will be asked

to participate from the state board of health, chemical companies, ground and air applicators and others directly concerned with the problem.

In connection with the discussion of spray residue, the board approved the stand taken by the State Department of Agriculture in the recent cranberry situation. Members agreed with McKennon that the first concern is for the needs of the public and its welfare but that within this framework the needs of agriculture should also be guarded.

Ward Spatz, Medford horticulturist, referred to the need for sprays on fruits, but said, "I cannot see for the life of my why growers should not follow the recommendations made for the use of these products."

McKennon reported that the department has found no amtrazole contamination in cranberries analyzed in its laboratories, nor was any found in samples the department sent to the federal laboratory in Albany, Calif.

The board approved a suggestion that the director of agriculture, in consultation with the OSC dean of agriculture, sift selections proposed by commodity commissions and that the governor make the appointment on basis of this screening.

This proposal will be submitted to Governor Hatfield, who earlier asked that he be relieved of the many commission appointments.

Drought Loan To Stockmen Nearly Repaid

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Agriculture Department reports that all but 10 million dollars of the 88 million dollars loaned to western stockmen for drought relief has been repaid.

The special livestock loan program was authorized back in 1953 when drought had thousands of western stockmen on the ropes.

The loan program was open from 1953 through 1957. Since 1957, no new applications have been accepted, but a few of the earlier borrowers were given additional credit.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Agriculture Department says that construction began on more than 100 small watershed projects during 1959.

By Dec. 1, there were a total of 120 small watersheds approved for construction with 210 approved for federal aid.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Funeral services will be held here today for Dr. George W. Pope, who once headed the Federal Veterinary Quarantine Service. He died Thursday at the age of 92.

Pope, a native of Madison, Wis., was a veterinary surgeon for the Agriculture Department for 42 years. His service included posts in Boston, New York and San Diego, Calif.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Agriculture Department has asked farmers and other interested persons for their views on a proposed change in standards for sweet peppers.

The revised standards include a U.S. fancy grade requiring higher quality than the present U.S. fancy. The change would mean a wider spread between U.S. fancy and U.S. no. 1 quality than exists between the two grades now.

FIND OLD TOOLS

TEHRAN, Iran (UPI)—A team of Chicago University archaeologists have unearthed tools believed to have been fashioned 100,000 years before Christ at Kermanshah in western Iran, according to press reports Wednesday.

The 14-man team is headed by Prof. Robert Braidwood.

grass and legume fields were also conducted by Pumphrey and will be reported to farmers of the area in the future.



I WANT THAT BRANDED COAL!

Smart man... won't settle for a substitute... knows that coal good enough to brand must be something special.

ABC COAL

- Lowest ash—highest heat.
- Homogenized for smoothest firing.
- Free of tramp metal — never a stalled stoker.
- Durable for cleaner homes.

For cleanliness, comfort and convenience TRY SOME ABC... AND SEE!



LOOK FOR THE BRAND... THE FOUL DISCS SCATTERED THRU EVERY TON

LA GRANDE LUMBER CO.

(ABERDEEN COAL)
Ph. WO 3-3113

SMITH BROS. Moving Service

(BLUE BLAZE COAL)
Ph. WO 3-2331

We Will Be

CLOSED SATURDAY

January 2nd

GLOBE FURNITURE

BE SURE ABOUT Insurance

These Are Most Essential!

- ADEQUATE COVERAGE!... Be certain you have all of the right kind of insurance protection.
- COMPLETE SERVICE!... We make sure your coverage is always up-to-date. We process your claims!
- DEPENDABLE COMPANIES! We handle only old line and proven concerns. Call today.

BAUM INSURANCE AGENCY

105 Depot La Grande WO 3-2125

ANNOUNCING NEW NAME.. NEW YEAR..

Effective January 1, 1960, all National Farm Loan Associations will be known as **FEDERAL LAND BANK ASSOCIATIONS**. The new name better identifies the associations with the purpose for which they were chartered and for which they have operated through the years, namely, the making and servicing of long-term, low-cost **FEDERAL LAND BANK LOANS**.

As in the past, the associations will continue to operate with just one aim in mind — to provide the very finest in long-term farm financing.

FEDERAL LAND BANK ASSOCIATION OF LA GRANDE

Serving Union, Baker & Wallowa Counties

The Foley Bldg.

Field Offices: Baker, Amifers Hotel; Enterprise, Russ Fox's Office.

A. W. STANLEY - Association Manager

MERTON A. DAVIS CHAS. SMUTZ MARION McCRAE LEE SAVELY ORIEN HUG GRANT CONLEY DON KOOCH Board of Directors